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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/994,598	11/20/2001	Frank R. George	425282000201	1393

20872 7590 06/10/2005

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EXAMINER

JASTRZAB, JEFFREY R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3762

DATE MAILED: 06/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/994,598

Applicant(s)

GEORGE ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey R. Jastrzab

Art Unit

3762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/5/05.

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.

2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 29-33 and 50-55 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 29-33 and 50-55

is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see page 7 of the remarks, filed 5/5/02, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 5-7 under 102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Rauch.

Applicant's arguments filed 5/5/02 have been fully considered with respect to independent claims 29 and 50 but they are not persuasive. It is agreed that the output of the amplifier (84) is measured rather than the measurement occurring at the applicator (12) in Rauch, however, these claims merely require that the energy applied by the applicator be measured. Since Applicant's measurement occurs at the same node in the circuit, e.g. see figure 2 wherein the measurement circuit (46) is measuring the output of the amplifier and not the output of the applicator per se, the same virtual measurement appears to be taking place.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1+ appear to be incorrect based on applicants' remarks on the prior art. It would appear that the output of the applicator is

not in fact measured, but actually the output of the amplifier is measured. See Figure 2 of applicants' drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 29, 31, 50 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Rauch et al., US 5,584,863. See column 11, line 15 to column 12 at line 5. Note the output of the amplifier (84) is the signal applied to the applicator and therefore the patient.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

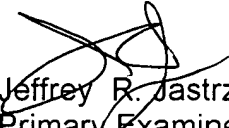
Claims 2-4, 8, 9, 16, 30, 32, 33, 52 and 53 stand are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch et al. for the reasons of record and Claims 1 5-7, 54 and 55 are rejected for the following reasons. Rauch et al. detect the output of amplifier (44) for feedback control of the applied power. Rauch et al. do not teach such measurement and feedback to occur at the applicator(although field strength is metered at the applicator). It would appear that merely moving the location of the measurement circuit to be on the applicator rather than in the main circuit housing would have amounted to a mere rearrangement of parts and therefore a subject of design choice, especially since applicants' take their measurement at the same amplifier output prior to the applicator per Figure 2. In re Kuhle, 526 F.2d 553, 188 USPQ 7 (CCPA 1975) (the particular placement of a contact in a conductivity measuring device was held to be an obvious matter of design choice).

Claims 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rauch et al. in view of Singh, US-4619264 for the reasons of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey R. Jastrzab whose telephone number is (571) 2724947. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Wednesday 5:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela D. Sykes can be reached on (571) 272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jeffrey R. Jastrzab
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3762

6/7/05